

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 M-03 A-01 OPR-02 EB-11 AID-20

NEAE-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 OMB-01 FBO-01 OC-06 CCO-00 SY-07

SSO-00 RSR-01 /183 W
----- 051214

P R 121235 Z APR 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2896

INFO AMEMBASY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 1104

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG US

SUBJECT: APRIL 12 EGYPTIAN MEDIA REACTION TO ISRAELI ATTACK
IN BEIRUT: INCREASE OF ANTI- AMERICAN RHETORIC

1. PRESS CONTINUES TO BE DOMINATED BY ARTICLES AND EDITORIALS
CONCERNING ISRAELI RAID ON BEIRUT. ANTI- US TONE HAS INCREASED
NOTICEABLY. THREE CAIRO ARABIC DAILIES REPORT AS FOLLOWS:

(A) AKHBAR' S MAIN STORY FOCUSES ON MESSAGES AND APPEALS
DIRECTED TO FEDAYEEN INSIDE ISRAEL TO MAINTAIN STEADFASTNESS
AND NOT TO FEAR THAT FEDAYEEN " SECRETS" WERE STOLEN BY ISRAELI
RAIDERS. AKHBAR STATES IT HAS LEARNED THAT, ACCORDING TO
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DOCUMENTS OBTAINED BY RESISTANCE, ASSASSINATION OF ARAFAT WAS ISRAELI TARGET. AKHBAR THEN STATES (AS FACT, AND NOT ATTRIBUTED TO ANY OTHER SOURCE) THAT FEDAYEEN HAVE OBTAINED DOCUMENTS PROVING CIA TO BE THE " TOOL WHICH PLANNED AND EXECUTED THE AGGRESSION WHICH RESULTED IN THE DEATH OF SEVERAL RESISTANCE LEADERS." AKHBAR GIVES AS EVIDENCE OF THIS FACT THAT CARS USED IN INCIDENT WERE HIRED BY INDIVIDUALS A WEEK BEFORE EVENT, AND THAT THESE INDIVIDUALS WERE SEEN FREQUENTING AMERICAN EMBASSY BEIRUT BUILDING BEFORE DISAPPEARING ON THE SAME NIGHT. MOREOVER, AKHBAR ALLEGES THAT NINE INDIVIDUALS PARTICIPATING IN CRIME ENTERED AMERICAN EMBASSY AT 4:30 A. M. TUESDAY. AKHBAR ADDS THAT MASKS USED BY RAIDERS ALSO PROVE THAT LONG- TIME RESIDENTS OF BEIRUT TOOK PART IN RAID, AND THAT CONTRADICTIONS IN ISRAELI BROADCASTS ALSO SUBSTANTIATE THEORY OF US INVOLVEMENT. AKHBAR STATES THAT ISRAELI BOAT WAS SIGHTED ON LEBANON' S COAST OPPOSITE US EMBASSY, BUT DEPARTED IMMEDIATELY AFTER BEING SEEN WITHOUT HAVING PICKED UP PERSONS WHO SOUGHT REFUGE AT EMBASSY. AKHBAR CONTAINS STRONG ANTI- US ARTICLE BY MUSA SABRI DEVOTED ALMOST ENTIRELY TO GROWING US ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE ON ME AND ECONOMIC MEASURES WHICH ARABS MAY TAKE IN RETALIATION. EXCEPT FOR FINAL NOTE THAT ISRAELI RAID WAS INTENDED TO PUSH ARABS TO ACT RASHLY OUT OF DESPAIR, THERE IS NO MENTION OF BEIRUT INCIDENT.

(B) AHRAH' S HEADLINE: " THE ENTIRE WORLD, EXCEPT AMERICA, WARNS OF SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES OF ISRAELINOUPILLA WARFARE." AHRAH CONCENTRATES ON WORLD REACTION TO EVENT AND " FACT" THAT US HAS NOT TAKEN STRONG POSITION AGAINST RAID. AHRAH NOTES THAT ONLY POSITION TAKEN BY US WAS STATEMENT DENYING INVOLVEMENT OF CIA AND AMERICAN EMBASSY BEIRUT IN AFFAIR; BEYOND THIS, AHRAH SAYS USG DID NOTHING. AHRAH' S AL- GAMMAL HAS BRIEF EDITORIAL CALLING FOR JOINT ARAB ACTION TO PRESENT EOMPLAINT ON BEIRUT RAID TO SECURITY COUNCIL; HE DOES NOT MENTION US.

(C) GUMHURIYYA HEADLINES SADAT' S MEETINGS TO DISCUSS CONSEQUENCES OF RAID, WITHOUT GIVING SIGNIFICANT DETAILS EXCEPT TO NOTE THAT OTHER SUBJECTS WERE DISCUSSED. GUMHURIYYA' S EDITORIAL CALLS FOR " CONTROLLED ANGER" AND RESOLVE IN FACE OF ISRAELI AGGRESSION. EDITORIAL STATES THAT US FINGERPRINTS CAN BE SEEN IN OPERATION AND US INTERESTS SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO ARAB RETALIATION.

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2. SAWT EL- ARAB AND OTHER EXCLUSIVELY GOE RADIO BROADCASTS HAVE CONTINUED FOR PAST 24 HOURS WITH THEME THAT WITHOUT US ASSISTANCE ISRAELI ATTACK COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MADE. GOE BROADCASTS HAVE NOT, RPT NOT, STATED OR IMPLIED DIRECT US COMPLICITY. VOICE OF PALESTINE'S "SAWT AL- ASSIFA" HAS, HOWEVER, CONTINUED TO STATE THEME OF CIA AND AMERICAN EMBASSY BEIRUT INVOLVEMENT IN AFFAIR.

3. FUNERAL SERVICE AMUOMAR MAKRAM MOSQUE WENT OFF CALMLY IN LATE MORNING AND MOURNERS DID NOT APPROACH USINT. WE HAVE HAD REPORTS OF DEMONSTRATION WHICH MOVED OFF CAMPUS OF CAIRO UNIVERSITY IN FORENOON, BUT UNTIL 1400 LOCAL, TAHRIR SQUARE TRAFFIC AND BUSINESS WERE AT NORMAL LEVEL OF ACTIVITY. WE ARE INFORMED THAT AUC HAS, AS OF EARLY AFTERNOON, HAD NO REACTION TO BEIRUT EVENTS.

4. AT ABOUT 1400 WE WERE INFORMED THAT DEMONSTRATION WAS IN PROGRESS IN NEAR VICINITY OF USINT. WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED TO BUTTON UP. GREENE

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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